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(German Division),
9, Carlton House Terrace,
London, S.W.

June 12. 1916.

Sir,

We have the honour to submit to you herewith a report covering a visit of inspection to the Prisoners of War Internment Camp at Lofthouse Park, Wakefield, on June 8. 1916.

DIRECTION

The Camp is under the general supervision of the Commander of the Northern District and the Commandant is Lt. Col. F.S. Low, who was, however, at the time of our visit, absent on account of illness, his place being temporarily taken by Major E.T. Lloyd.

PRISONERS

There were 1447 civilian prisoners on the day of our visit, of whom 1322 were German, 122 were Austrian and 3 were Turks.

COMMITTEES

Besides the usual "Lowry" and "Markel" Committees there is an Austro-Hungarian Committee, which devotes its particular attention to interned Austrians and Hungarians, a Kitchen Committee, which arranges everything to do with the Mess, a Sports Committee, a Theatrical Committee, a Y.M.C.A. Committee and a Camp Committee, which deals with the internal management and affairs of the camp. All these Committees are chosen and run by the prisoners themselves.

SLEEPING
ACCOMMO-
DATIONS

There has been no change in the sleeping accommodations since the last report. These were examined and found neat, clean and in good condition.

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SANITARY
ARRANGEMENTS

There has been no change in the sanitary arrangements since the last visit. The latrines are all water-flushed, and the camp refuse is removed daily by a contractor. Everything was examined and found neat and clean.

INFIRMARY

There was one doctor in charge of the camp hospital, assisted by 4 British P.A.M.C. orderlies and 16 German attendants. On the day of our visit there were 43 in-patients and 88 out-patients, none of whom was seriously ill. Several of the out-patients were suffering from colds, slight sprains received during exercise, etc. There has been no change in the hospital arrangements since the last visit. They were examined and it was found that there was no criticism to be made.

KITCHENS

There were 34 cooks in charge of the 3 kitchens at this Camp. In the South Camp there were 3 head-cooks and 8 assistants; in the North Camp there were 3 head-cooks and 8 assistants and in the West Camp there were 2 head-cooks and 10 assistants.

The ordinary Government ration is supplemented by extra meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, etc., which the interned men purchase themselves. This camp is a privileged camp, where a superior class of men are sent, and they are prepared to pay for better messes and accommodations.

Two specimen bills of fare are enclosed herewith, (EXHIBIT A)*. The beef and Hamburger steaks, which had been cooked for dinner on the day of our visit, attracted our particular attention on account of their excellence.

WORK

The interned men pass their time chiefly with carpentering, gardening, wood-carving, painting and drawing, lectures and the study of languages.

times a week. They use the exercise grounds mentioned in the

*Sent to Berlin.

last

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last report, and a 3 acre field for exercise is about to be opened. There are three new tennis courts, making a total of 6 tennis courts, on which the men were playing at the time of our visit. There is also a gymnasium, fitted with the usual gymnastic appliances.

NOTES BY
CAMP

There were no serious complaints of any kind. A certain number of the men wanted to be repatriated.

OBSERVATIONS

We found this camp in a very much better condition than it was at the time of our previous visit on March 16, 1918. There was no mud and the interned men were making the grounds attractive with their gardens. Although at the time of our visit it had been recently raining, we found everything absolutely dry.

The interned men seemed much happier than when we saw them last and there were fewer complaints of all kinds. The only two matters that seemed to us to need consideration were the question of the possible condition of the paths in winter and the question of the water supply. Some work has already been done upon the roads and paths and we were assured that the matter was having the attention of the competent authorities, and that during the summer they would be put into proper condition for the next winter. The interned men seemed to be willing to work on the paths themselves, if they were furnished with "slag" and ashes. This was taken up and we were assured that this matter would be arranged. The shortness of men now available for work in this part of the country, makes it difficult to carry out improvements as quickly as it is desired.

The question of the shortage of the water supply at certain times of the day, which was spoken of by some of the interned men was taken up with the proper authorities and we were assured that the matter should have their attention.

It

It was suggested to us that one reason that the water supply in the two upper camps was not very plentiful was that much water was used in the lower camp for the watering of the gardens and keeping the tennis courts in good condition.

We had talks with all the head captains, who seemed anxious to do all they could to improve the condition of the camp. We found the relations between the interned men and the officers of the Guard much better than they were at the time of our last visit. There were no men in cells.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

BOYLSTON A. BEAL.

(Signed)

W.H. BUCKLER.

The Honourable,
Walter Hines Page,
American Ambassador,
LONDON.